

The Divine Design for Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24

I. Introduction.

A. The concept of marriage has undergone a radical change in our culture. Judg. 21:25

B. Our understanding of the divine origin of marriage is crucial.

1. Mankind is not autonomous: we are created by God and we are accountable to Him. Gen. 1:1
2. Mankind is not merely an animal. We are made in God's image. Gen. 1:26-27
3. Marriage is a creation ordinance. Genesis 2:18-25; Mt. 19:4-5
4. God designed marriage from the beginning and brought together the first man and woman in a covenant of companionship. Gen. 2:18-25; Mal. 2:14; Pr. 2:17; Ezek. 16:8
 - a. Marriage is beneficial for mankind.
 - b. Our marriages are to reflect our relationship with God. Eph. 5:25,32; Is. 54:5
5. Because God's Word is infallible, timeless and fully sufficient, His design for marriage does not evolve or change. Isa. 40:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

C. A definition: Marriage is a lifelong covenant of companionship between a man and a woman which has been established by God and before the community.

II. Marriage is made in heaven. Gen. 2:18-23

A. It is not good for you to be alone. v. 18-20

1. A shocking statement – “not good”. v. 18; 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31
2. Marriage is designed by God to make you complete.
3. Some, however, have the gift of singleness. 1 Cor. 7:7-8, 32-34; Mt. 19:12
4. Some who don't feel that they have the gift of singleness have to wait on the Lord.

B. You need a suitable helper. v. 19-20

1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?
2. No other creature is a suitable helper.
3. God made men and women to complement each other in marriage.
 - a. God created gender differences. 1 Pe. 3:7
 - b. A marriage is an interesting blend of similarities and differences.
4. Only a woman can complete a man and only a man can complete a woman.
5. Does God create anyone to be homosexual? 1 Co. 10:13; Ro. 1:26-27; Lev. 18:22ff
 - a. Homosexuality is sinfully contrary to God's design.
 - b. We all know what it is like to be tempted by that which God has forbidden.
1 Co. 10:13
 - c. Many believers who had struggled with homosexuality have been transformed by God's grace. 1 Co. 6:9-11

C. God provides a helper for the man. v. 21-23

1. Why does God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman? v. 21-22; 2:7, 19; 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26; 3:19
2. The husband should respect his wife because she is also made in God's image. 1:27; 1 Co. 7:8-9; 1 Pe. 3:7; Gal. 3:28
3. The husband ought to cherish his wife as part of himself. Eph. 5:28-29
4. Adam understands and rejoices in what God has done for him. v. 23; **Eph. 5:29**

D. The first marriage reveals God's design for the roles of both husband and wife.

1. Male headship was God's plan from the beginning. 1 Co. 11:3; **1 Ti. 3:13**
2. The woman is created for the sake of the man. v.18; 1 Co. 11:8-9
3. The man exercises authority by naming the animals and his wife. v. 20, 23; 3:20
4. The Fall has led to the corruption of marriage roles. Gen. 3:16; 4:7; 1 Pe. 3:1ff
5. The gospel makes the redemption of marriage possible. 2 Co. 5:17; Eph. 5:22ff

III. God gives foundational directives for marriage. Gen. 2:24-25; Mt. 19:5; Mark 10:7; Eph. 5:31; 1 Co. 6:16

A. Leave – Your marriage creates a new family unit.

1. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship.
 - a. The parent/child relationship is temporary and changing.
 - b. Grown children still honor their parents, but are no longer in subjection to them. Ex. 20:12; Mark 7:9-13
2. Failure to leave is a violation of God's design – geographically, economically, emotionally.
 - a. Is it ever a good idea for a young couple to live with their parents?
 - b. Is it wrong for parents to help their married children financially? 2 Co. 12:14

B. Cleave – a husband and wife are joined in a lifelong covenant of companionship.

1. Marriage is a covenant commitment.
2. Divorce is a sinful violation God's design. Mt. 19:3-9; Mal. 2:14-16
3. God allows protection for the innocent party when their spouse violates the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment. Mt. 5:32; 1 Co. 7:15-16
4. Some Christians, by faith, stay in hard marriages. Ps. 15:4; Pr. 3:5-6
5. Some hard marriages are transformed by God's grace.
6. It is not enough to merely remain legally married.
7. Marriage is designed by to be the most personally intimate of human relationships. Mal. 2:14; Song of Solomon
8. Emotional intimacy, including flirtation, with anyone other than your spouse violates your marriage vows.

C. One flesh – The sexual union is designed by God to be a blessing within marriage.

1. The sexual union is the sign of covenant commitment of marriage.
2. The sexual union is designed by God to produce the blessing of children.
Gen. 1:28; Ps. 127
3. The sexual union is given by God for the enjoyment of both husband and wife.
Prov. 5:8-9; Heb. 13:4; Song of Solomon 1:1ff; Deut. 24:5
4. Any sexual expression outside of marriage is a sinful and destructive misuse of God's gift – adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexuality, lust, etc. Heb. 13:4; Eph. 5:5; 1 Co. 6:9, 15-20; 7:4; Ex. 20:14; Pr. 7:27; Mt. 5:27-28; Job 31:1; Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 18:22-25; 20:13, 15; Deut. 22:5
5. Sexual sin is a heart problem. Mark 7:21-23; Pr. 4:23; Gen. 39:9
6. God judges sexual sin. Heb. 13:4; 1 Co. 6:9f; Pr. 5:20-21; 6:26, 32-33; Rom. 1:27, 32
7. Neglecting one's spouse's sexual needs is a violation of God's design. 1 Co. 7:3-5

IV. Concluding applications.